



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2017

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CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 2017

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado, based on conditions as of May 1, 2017, is forecast at 72.15 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is 31 percent below last year's production of 105.12 million bushels and 11 percent below the 81.03 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, forecast at 1.95 million acres, is 240,000 acres less than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, down 11.0 bushels per acre from last year's yield. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

As of April 30, Colorado's winter wheat crop condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 5 percent excellent, compared with 1 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 12 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Colorado farms and ranches as of May 1, 2017 totaled 500,000 tons, down 38 percent from stocks of 800,000 tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2016 was 3.57 million tons, 17 percent lower than 2015 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2016 to May 1, 2017 was 1.15 million tons, compared with 1.10 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.25 billion bushels, down 25 percent from 2016. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 48.8 bushels per acre, down 6.5 bushels from last year's record yield of 55.3 bushels per acre.

Hard Red Winter production, at 737 million bushels, is down 32 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 297 million bushels, is down 14 percent from 2016. White Winter, at 212 million bushels, is down 13 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 16.8 million bushels are Hard White and 195 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms as of May 1, 2017 totaled 24.4 million tons, down 3 percent from the previous May. Disappearance from December 1, 2016 - May 1, 2017 totaled 71.4 million tons, compared with 69.9 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.